

1. (Currently amended) In a network switch comprising a control point and a plurality of network processors, a method comprising:

(a) receiving data frames from a network; and

(b) performing logical bridging of data frames destined for or originating from said control point in a network processor directly connected to said control point,

managing a media access control (MAC) address database with a Guided Tree Handler, and

sending data frames to a logical router in another network processor with an L3 table for all L3 processing,

wherein said network processor directly connected to said control point further comprising a logical bridge and a medium-access-control (MAC) the MAC address database and said network processor directly connected to said control point is free of an L3 table.

7. (Currently amended) A network switch comprising:

a control point;

a plurality of network processors;

said plurality of network processors programmed with logical bridging and logical routing functions;

wherein a network processor directly connected to said control point performs logical bridging functions needed by said control point, said network processor further comprising a logical bridge and a media access control (MAC) address database and

wherein said network processor directly connected to said control point manages the MAC address database with a Guided Tree Handler, sends data frames to a logical router in another network processor with an L3 table for all L3 processing, and is free of an L3 table.

11. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium storing computer executable instructions, said instructions when executed by processors in a network switch comprising a control point and a plurality of network processors, implementing a method comprising:

(a) receiving data frames from a network; and

(b) performing logical bridging of data frames destined for or originating from said control point in a network processor directly connected to said control point,

managing a media access control (MAC) address database with a Guided Tree Handler, and

sending data frames to a logical router in another network processor with an L3 table for all L3 processing,

wherein said network processor directly connected to said control point further comprising a logical bridge and a media access control (MAC) the MAC address database, and said network processor directly connected to said control point is free of an L3 table.